

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 274416
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK
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S, D, NEA, INR, WHITE HOUSE, P

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 274416

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON , WH FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: BEGIN'S INVITATION TO SADAT

REF: TEL AVIV 9292, CAIRO 19040

1. SAM LEWIS CALLED ME ON SECURE PHONE THIS MORNING TO
DISCUSS PROBLEM OF OUR DEALINGS WITH ISRAELIS WHICH IS
POSED BY FACTS THAT (A) BEGIN'S LETTER AND PRESIDENT'S
TRANSMITTAL LETTER HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO SADAT BUT HE
WANTS NO ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL HE RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS
THURSDAY, AND (B) SADAT HAS TOLD US HE PLANS TO VISIT
JERUSALEM THIS SATURDAY BUT WE HAVE NOT TOLD ISRAELIS

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THIS. LEWIS UNDERSTANDABLY SEES PROBLEMS IF ISRAELIS
SUBSEQUENTLY FIND OUT WE HAVE KNOWN ABOUT SADAT'S PROPOSED
DATE FOR VISIT AND HAVE WITHHELD THIS FROM THEM.

2. RE THE ANNOUNCEMENT PROBLEM, I TOLD LEWIS WE WOULD
RESPOND TO ALL QUERIES SAYING ANY ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD
COME FROM CAIRO AND JERUSALEM. I SUGGESTED HE TELL BEGIN

OF SADAT'S PREFERENCE RE ANNOUNCEMENT, POINTING OUT THAT SADAT EXPECTS DIFFICULT VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND STRONGLY URGING THAT ISRAELIS RESPECT SADAT'S WISHES RE TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT AND HOLDING THE LINE SO FAR AS ANY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS IS CONCERNED. OBVIOUSLY PRESS

WILL SPECULATE, BUT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE TO RISK CASTING SHADOW OVER SADAT VISIT BY BOTCHING THE TIMING OF OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. RE SADAT'S PROPOSAL FOR SATURDAY VISIT, I TOLD LEWIS IT SEEMED THE BEST THING WAS TO LEVEL WITH BEGIN PERSONALLY BY SAYING THAT SADAT HAD INDICATED HE WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF A VISIT AS EARLY AS SATURDAY. BEGIN SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THIS CANNOT BE SHARED WITH OTHERS OR LEAKED TO PRESS AND ISRAELIS WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO LIVE WITH SITUATION UNTIL THEY RECEIVE SADAT'S RESPONSE AND AGREEMENT TO ANNOUNCE DELIVERY OF INVITATION WHICH SADAT HAS PROMISED FOR THURSDAY AFTER HE RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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